



BALLARD CIVIC (MUNICIPAL) CENTER PARK DEVELOPMENT **PROJECT ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #2**

Tuesday, July 20, 2004 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Nordic Heritage Museum – 3014 NW 67th Street

MEETING SUMMARY – DRAFT

PAT Members Present:

Marianne Forssblad	Beth Miller
Rosalie Holcomb	Sarah Neilson
Davidya Kasperzyk	Jeanette Plutchok
Stephen Lundgren	Micah Shapiro
John Marasco	

PAT Member Absent:
Charles Anderson

Other attendees:

Jon Jainga, Parks Project Manager
Cathy Tuttle, Parks Planner
Barbara Swift, Swift & Company Landscape Architects
Valerie Otani, Project Artist
Dan Hughes and Robin Hoff, Skate Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Facilitator: Cathy Tuttle

Design Schedule:

Start of design: 3rd Quarter 2004
Construction start: 1st Quarter 2005

Welcome:

Cathy Tuttle opened the meeting. PAT members introduced themselves to Rosalie Holcomb who replaced Scott Shinn as the representative of the Parent's for the Ballard Bowl. The PAT sign-in sheet was circulated and ground rules were presented.

Ground rules:

Cathy Tuttle asked that PAT members agree to listen carefully to each other and wait to respond. PAT members were again asked to keep the entire group informed of sidebar discussions between meetings.

Role of PAT:

The overall role of the PAT, as directed by Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds, is to evaluate, review, and comment on skate park elements and possible water features as outlined in the approved New Skate Bowl Study 2 schematic plan. The PAT members should also report back to their constituent community as the park design progresses. The set task for the second Ballard PAT meeting was to review and comment on park water features as well as the size and adjacencies of the skate area.

Previous Meeting Notes:

Davidya Kasperzyk made a motion to approve meeting summary with amended text and copy of New Skate Bowl Study 2 attached. Meeting summary was approved.

Community comments: 11 community members testified at the meeting.

Prior to the start of community comments, PAT member Jeannette Plutchok read a statement asking that the location of the skate area be reconsidered.

1. Jason Harrison. Harrison, the President of the Puget Sound Skaters Association (PSSA), asked that the existing bowl be kept. He said that skaters did not trust the Parks process.
2. Matthew Lee Johnson. Johnson said that there were too few skate experts on the PAT. He also said that the existing bowl was built to last.
3. Daniel S. Barnett. Barnett said that he wanted to keep the existing bowl and that it was not temporary.
4. Kelly O'Neill. O'Neill, PSSA spokesperson, wanted to know why the existing bowl could not be reconsidered because people want to keep it. She also stated that if the bowl could not be saved that a new skate area should be big enough to have a street skate area for kids.
5. Kate Martin. Martin delivered a statement as a Parent's for the Ballard Bowl member supporting the existing bowl and a 10,000 s.f. skate area.
6. Robert Zimmer. Zimmer said moving the bowl would cost \$300,000 and was a waste of money.
7. Nick Dallett. Dallett supports the existing bowl and believes a new bowl will not be as good as the existing bowl. He has children and supports kids using the park.
8. Dave Carmen. Carmen said the bowl was excellent and paid for and busier than most any other park facility such as a tennis court.
9. Mark Simpson, Bumgardner Architecture. Simpson hoped a compromise could work. He asked that the design start over from scratch.
10. Kate Hohlbein. Hohlbein worried that a new bowl would be too expensive and waste money. Her son uses the bowl and needs the park.
11. John Carr. Carr is an attorney and uses the bowl. He is concerned that building a new bowl is costly and risky.

Water feature:

The project landscape architectural consultant, Barbara Swift of Swift & Company showed illustrations of water features that presented a variety of faces: active-passive, small-large, rustic-finished. PAT members shared photos and spoke about water features that they felt were compelling and appropriate for the new park. Valerie Otani, the project artist, was present for the discussion. Many ideas about water were generated. The idea of a bathroom as a necessary water element was raised. Some common themes include the following:

- **Significant.** A significant element, not a minor feature
- **Multipurpose.** When dry can be used as a performance space.
- **Safety.** Including depth of water and health issues such as stagnant water, mosquitoes breeding, etc.
- **Multigenerational.** Children love water. Think of children.
- **Interactive.** Several references made to Jamison Park in Portland, which fills and drains. Some members felt Jamison Park shallow areas, water tidal character and general scale was appropriate to this park. Shallow enough for toddler safe use. Small kinetic elements.
- **Natural materials.** Cobblestones, natural elements, wood, water. Not an ornate French garden fountain. Concrete was described as cold and hard.
- **Appropriate to Ballard.** Materials should respond to the context of Ballard, not be extravagant but still use craft. Consider maritime theme or Scandinavian heritage for inspiration. How does Oslo treat its fountains?

Water is Ballard – from Native Americans to Scandinavian immigrants.

- **Lively and noise buffering.** Consider noise, bubbling sounds of water. Water element shooting up provides vitality and is not a hazard. Water can provide a sound buffering aspect.
- **Meditative.** Water can both enliven the space and provide for calm. The water feature could have multiple display / functional characteristics. Water should bring energy to the park, but also be calming. The Garden of Memory was mentioned.
- **Misc.** Mix light with a waterway. Light quality and reflectivity discussed. Mix jets. Consider the sculptural character of a creek bed. Like Japanese gardens and use of water, but may not be appropriate. Nature and character of edges, grade and edges discussed.

Skate area designs:

At their 6/29/04 meeting, Ballard PAT members requested that the Citywide Skate Park Advisory Committee (SAC) provide diagrams and descriptions of skate areas for Ballard of 4,000, 5,000 and 7,000 square feet. The SAC met on July 14 to model these skate area diagrams and SAC members Robin Hoff and Dan Hughes brought the diagrams to the 7/20/04 PAT meeting for discussion [diagrams attached to the end of the meeting summary]. All three diagrams showed bowls of various sizes. Photos of three local parks with skate areas approximately these sizes were also illustrated: Port Orford, Oregon; Leavenworth, WA and; Carnation, WA. Photos of these parks are available on Dan Hughes' website at <http://www.policygov.com/skate/>

- The SAC felt that a bowl of any of the three sizes could include a deep bowl with pool coping and tile, and a cradle.
- A properly designed bowl can be ridden high or low and serve both experienced and inexperienced riders. A street area is not only for inexperienced skaters. The SAC believes any street skate area needs to be 10,000 square feet or more because street elements need to replicate what is found on real streets and sidewalks.
- The SAC does not like fencing. Many skateparks in Greater Seattle do not have fencing but use berms or mounds with grass on them. These areas are good places for parents to sit and watch their kids, whether they are skateboarding or playing in a playground. Burien and Northbend illustrate good examples of the use of grass berms next to a skatepark.
- According to the approved plans sent to SAC the skate area will be approximately 50 feet from the location of the current bowl. The Ballard bowl is valued and serves many people. The SAC strongly stated that they like the bowl in its current location because it maximizes the area that is available for the rest of the park and allows room for a possible street skate area, it saves the bowl, and saves money.

Skate area discussion:

PAT members had a variety of opinions about the skate area.

1. **Jeannette Plutchok.** Can people of all skill levels use the bowl? Can you put more features around the bowl? Why can't the bowl go on the east side of the park? The young people need a place in the park so she would support a 7,000 s.f. option.
2. **Beth Miller.** Ballard residents were asked to include a skate area by the Parks Board even though another skate area will be built nearby in Woodland Park in 2 years. The bowl will be a single use. Please limit

size to the smaller options, less than 5,000 s.f., and let Swift get back to designing the park.

3. **Marianne Forssblad.** Amazed at controversy over bowl. Would like a small 2,500 s.f. bowl and little street area. Total skate area should be less than 5,000 s.f.
4. **Davidya Kasperzyk.** Can the old bowl be replicated? Want smallest bowl possible, sound and visual buffering and berms, and 2/3 of the park to remain green.
5. **John Marasco.** The SAC says they can't fit a bowl and street area in the largest area (7,000 s.f.) so go back and redesign park. Doesn't want skate area in SW quadrant of park. Rebuilding bowl is a waste.
6. **Rosalie Holcomb.** Street skating teaches beginner skills and street area is needed. Leave existing bowl and add 7,500 s.f. street course for a total 10,000 s.f. skate park. Only 1/6 of entire park.
7. **Micah Shapiro.** Agrees with Rosalie to make bowl and add street area for 10,000 s.f. skate park. Doesn't understand why bowl needs to move. Have skaters design any new skate area.
8. **Stephen Lundgren.** Make skate area as small as possible. Keep the bowl under 3000 s.f.
9. **Sarah Neilson.** Doesn't think bowl needs to be moved. Kids are using the area already. Would like skate area here as large as possible.

After considerable discussion, PAT members were unable to reach agreement on the size and adjacencies of the skate area.

Handouts:

- * Agenda, List of PAT members, Role of Ballard Project Advisory Team, Meeting Summary of 6/29/04, New Skate Bowl Study 2 plan, PAT timeline
- * Skate Park Advisory Committee read a statement, showed three designs for different sized bowls, and distributed photographs of different sized bowls. Parent's for the Ballard Bowl distributed a 1-page statement.

Next Meeting:

Next PAT meeting fall 2004, location tbd

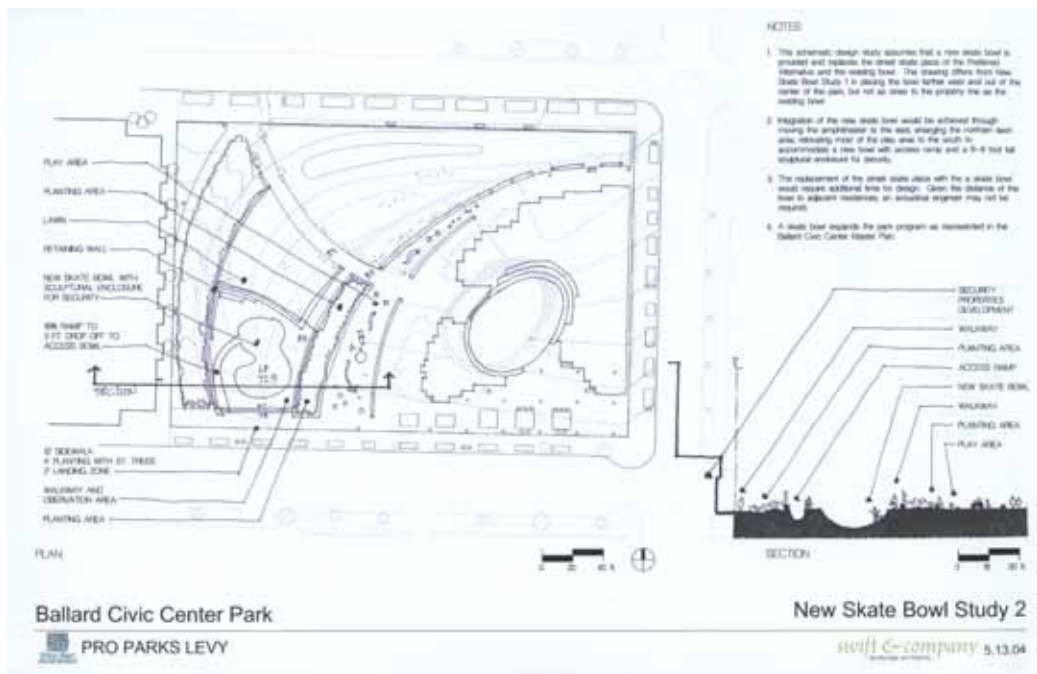
Summary By:

Cathy Tuttle

Additional Information is Available:

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/ballardMunicipalCenterPark.htm>
- Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks Project Manager, (206) 684-7054 jon.jainga@seattle.gov
- Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, (206) 684-7033; cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov

APPROVED SCHEMATIC DESIGN 5/21/04



Skate Park Advisory Committee studies: Existing, 4000, 5000 and 7000 s.f.

